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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TWO CHARGED IN COUNTERFEIT SCHEME

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced today that MAURICIO ARIAS, 27, of Owensboro, Kentucky, and MARY PAUL, 23, of Indianapolis, Indiana, were charged with using counterfeit United States currency, following an investigation by the United States Secret Service and the Evansville Police Department.

The separate informations filed against ARIAS and PAUL allege that ARIAS and PAUL used counterfeit U.S. currency to purchase money orders in January of 2005.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, ARIAS and PAUL face a maximum possible prison sentence of 20 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000. An initial hearing will be

scheduled for ARIAS before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville. PAUL appeared before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis for an initial appearance on the charge on May 16, 2005.

An information is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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